

Doppelganger
by
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INT. SHOP - DAY

JAMES, wearing a watch and his favourite pink dress, pushes a shopping trolley as he gathers various items from shelves. A dozen or so other SHOPPERS do the same thing. JANINE, a WOMAN in her mid 30s and with another trolley stares at JAMES as she approaches him.

JANINE

Oh, hello James. Long time no see?

JAMES

You're a fan of my show?

JANINE

I sure am.

JAMES looks at his watch awkwardly.

JAMES

Well, gotta go...

JANINE widens her eyes.

JANINE

It's the first time I see you in God knows how long and that's all you have to say to me?

JAMES

Yes, gotta go bye.

JANINE

Is this really how you treat your girlfriend??

JAMES gives a huge sigh of relief.

JAMES

Oh, it's YOU!

JANINE

Who did you think it was?

JAMES

Someone who looks like you. I hope you don't take offense to this, but for a brief while I was having thoughts of cheating on you with yourself, which was weird, obviously.

JANINE

James!

JAMES

Oh you know what I mean.

JANINE

I don't...

JAMES

You think I'm a weirdo, then?

JANINE

Yes, I don't think I want to appear on your next podcast...

JAMES

How did you know I was going to ask?

JANINE

Because you talk about everything!

JAMES

It's a hell of a story... Very funny and it would make a perfect topic in a Jerry Springer type show!

JANINE

James, it was demented. And what's the dress about?

JAMES

Do you even know me?? I'm expressing my feminine side! Do you know what 'soy' means?

JANINE looks puzzled.

JANINE

It's a kind of sauce?

JAMES

Yes, that's what I thought at first when someone called me 'soy, too! Actually it's a word to describe 'girly boys'. Can you guess what my online name is?

JANINE

What?

JAMES

Soy sauce!

JANINE

You've been visiting cooking websites?

JAMES

Oh, that would be perfect. Actually I've been playing real time strategy games. That's Commander Soy Sauce.

JANINE

Is your persona a skilled general?

JAMES sighs again.

JAMES

I've lost almost every battle.

JANINE

Maybe try harder?

JAMES

Yes, the thing is whilst I do value tactics, I ALSO value the aesthetic qualities of my base and planning everything stylishly does waste time.

JANINE

Happy soldiers, though? I'd be depressed if I was in a poorly planned base, anyway...

JAMES gives a huge smile.

JAMES

Right! Exactly! Maybe that idea can be taken into consideration with the updated version of the game. Anyway, considering you really ARE my girlfriend (pew, right?), how about going on a date?

JANINE

Are you thinking of a 'live on air' kind of date?

JAMES

Bingo.

JANINE looks nervous.

JANINE

Because a Jerry Springer type show would simply be too much for me...

JAMES

It will be the best podcast ever.

JANINE
I'll think about it. Anyway, I have
some shopping to do.

JAMES
Oh me too! That's actually why I'm
here!

JANINE
I have some solo shopping to do...

JAMES
Actually, I was here to do that too..
.

JANINE
But I still am.

JAMES
Oh. I offended you when I said I
wanted to cheat on you with yourself?

JANINE
Bye, James. Hang on... aren't you
having money troubles? How can you
afford to shop here?

JAMES
(whispering)
I'm a thief!

JANINE backs away.

JANINE
A thief with a shopping trolley??

JAMES
No one would ever suspect me.

JANINE
No, I'm sure you're getting a hell of
a lot of attention from those
watching CCTV. Especially now.

JAMES
Does CCTV pick up sound?

JANINE
I don't know...

JAMES
Then I'll take my chances.

JANINE

You're going to leave the shop with
the trolley??

JAMES

It was a bad idea, wasn't it?

JANINE

I'd just leave the trolley here and
walk away.

JAMES

Good plan. Bye, Janine.

JAMES does indeed leave his trolley and walks away.